

March 26, 1992

LB 1184
LR 395-408

SPEAKER BAACK: Congratulations, Sally. Items for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, study resolutions 395 through 408 all will be referred to the Executive Board for referral to the appropriate Standing Committee. (See LR 395-408 as found on pages 1687-95 of the Legislative Journal.)

That's all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: We will now proceed to LB 1184.

CLERK: Mr. President, Legislative Bill 1184 was a bill introduced by Senator Rasmussen and a number of members. (Read title and brief description.) Bill was introduced on January 21 of this year, was referred to the Health Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. I do have Health and Human Services Committee amendments pending. (See Standing Committee amendment AM2871 as found on page 891 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely, with the Health Committee amendments.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. LB 1184 is a bill primarily introduced by Senator Rasmussen, who's picked it as her priority bill. She and the other cosponsors of the bill I think should be commended. It does attempt to bring together various interests associated with child abuse and neglect investigation and treatment of that problem. We had previous legislation on this and had a great deal of controversy. Senator Rasmussen chaired an interim study and we were able to reach some agreement and that's what LB 1184 does. The committee amendments deal with the question of the relationship between law enforcement and the Department of Social Services in how we investigate child abuse. There have been some questions about the role and responsibility of those two entities. This amendment will clarify that it's law enforcement's duty to investigate child abuse and neglect reports, but that law enforcement may request assistance from the Department of Social Services. The reason we try and clarify this is sometimes when it could be either you have neither do it. Law enforcement says, well, DSS can do it; DSS says law enforcement can do it and so neither one does it. In this case, we're trying to clearly place responsibility on law enforcement to investigate